



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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“Always Ready” Robust Flooding Agenda Advances in First House Committee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (*March 8, 2021*) — Today, Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, praised the Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee for advancing a key bill that will ensure that Florida is prepared to respond to the impacts of sea level rise and flooding. The bill was reported favorably, 18-0.

“We are a low-lying state surrounded by water on three sides, and that water is flowing into places it shouldn’t. Flooding is a real threat to people’s homes, businesses and livelihoods,” said Speaker Sprowls. “The success of our state is inextricably connected to the proper management of water. In order to protect Floridians, we are advancing a suite of bills to address the effects of flooding — one of the most pressing issues of our time. I look forward to seeing today’s bill and others continue to move through the Committee process and to the floor.”

The cornerstone of the Speaker’s flooding and sea level rise mitigation agenda is the “Always Ready” proposed committee bill, carried by Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, R-Miami, that advanced today out of the Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee. The bill outlines several steps to mitigate flooding issues across the state. It includes:

- \$100 million per year starting in 2022-2023 to mitigate the effects of flooding and sea level rise.
- Florida’s first-ever three-year Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan to be updated annually by the Department of Environmental Protection.
- A comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to inform the Resilience Plan.
- The Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide funds to local governments that would cover the costs of planning for and addressing threats from flooding.

- The opportunity for regional resilience coalitions to form to plan for the resilience needs of communities and coordinate intergovernmental solutions.
- A Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to collaborate between academic and research institutions to address the state's flooding challenges.

Speaker Sprowls first unveiled his flooding and sea level rise agenda during a Feb. 26 [press conference](#) at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Watch the full press conference [here](#).

“Thank you to Speaker Sprowls and to Chair Buchanan for their leadership in this transformational legislation. It is time to act, we can't wait any longer,” said Representative Busatta Cabrera. “It is time to protect our communities, our homes, our businesses, and make sure that we aren't leaving our future generations with nothing. It is time to make sure that we are Always Ready.”

The proposed committee bill approved by the Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee today will next be assigned a bill number and referred to committees. The bill can be viewed here:

- [Representative Busatta Cabrera's "Always Ready" PCB](#)

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